

Application No.: 09/886073  
Docket No.: RD8005USNA

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Amendments to Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A steam blanket apparatus for blanketing the face of a spinneret with gas comprising:

a spinneret pack body including a spinneret plate having a lower face with an orifice array through which the filaments are extruded and an upper body portion;

a spin head surrounding the spinneret pack body wherein the spin head includes a metallic plate extending below the spinneret pack body; and

an annular space disposed between the interior walls of the spin head and the spinneret pack body;

an external supply source of gas to supply steam into the annular space, such that the steam flows in the annular space around the spinneret pack body; and

a steam distribution ring abutting the spin head and removably mounted to the spin head, surrounding said array, the steam distribution ring including a skirt portion generally perpendicular to the distribution ring and situated to deflect the flow of steam from the annular space toward the spinneret orifice array and [.] wherein said steam distribution ring abuts the spin head wherein the steam distribution ring is removable from the spin head without removing the spinneret pack body from the spin head.

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2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the spin head includes a plate extending below the spinneret plate, and the steam distribution ring is located in a counterbore formed in the spin head plate.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)